Welfare mechanism for population

3328. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that large percentage of population is being excluded from the welfare mechanisms which are meant for the development;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to constitute an expert committee to study the range of exclusion; and

(c) if so, the steps being initiated by Government to ensure that the population is not being excluded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) An Approach Paper to the 11th Five Year Plan "Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth" states "...There are many divides, all demanding equal attention. Foremost among these is divided between the rich and the poor ... poverty is declining, but at a modest pace which is no longer acceptable given the minimalist level at which the poverty line is fixed. The pace of poverty reduction must be accelerated. There is also a divide between those who have access to essential services and those who do not have access to essential services, which leads to large disparities in health and nutritional status, in education and skills, as also in availability of clean water and sanitation. There are also excluded groups in our society such as Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), some minorities who continue to lag behind the rest. "The 11th Plan provides" an opportunity to restructure policies to achieve a new vision of growth that will be much more broad based and inclusive, bringing about a faster reduction in poverty and helping bridge the divides ..." As of now, the Government is not considering to constitute an expert committee to study the exclusion of any category of persons.

Recommendation of Anwarul Hoda Committee

†3329.DR.MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Anwarul Hoda Committee appointed by Planning Commission, has recommended that in order to do away with shortage, private sector be given concession in vocational and higher education and allowed freedom to determine fee and earn profit.

(b) if so, the details of the recommendation;

(c) whether Government has deliberated on this recommendation; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government to implement it in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The High Level Group on Services Sector constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Member, Shri Anwarul Hoda has expressed the view that "...having regard to the magnitude of the new investment needs it would be necessary to involve private and corporate sector fully for expanding facilities for higher education. While giving freedom to the private sector institutions in respect of fees, it would be necessary to ensure that they provide scholarships and free-ships

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to an adequate number of meritorious students (and those from historically disadvantaged and vulnerable groups) who do not have the means to pay the fees. In this connection, the Group recommends in particular that the present disability imposed by the UGC Act and the Regulations of the AICTE and other apex bodies on the eligibility of the corporate sector (for profit entities) to establish educational institutions must be removed".

(c) and (d) The above report is under examination.

Balanced development in the age of globalisation

†3330. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a renowned economist Shri Ashok Mitra while expressing his views on the challenges appearing before India for balanced development in this age of globalisation has stated that 85 per cent people are being deprived of ongoing development in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has examined the above mentioned statement;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the assessment made by Government with regard to the participation of common men in development of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) As per the newsitem appearing in the daily 'The Hindu' dated 2nd April, 2008, Shri Ashok Mitra, while giving a lecture on "Challenges of inclusive growth in India in the age of globalisation" said that "the uneven growth taking place in the country has benefited only 10 to 15 per cent of the total population and an overwhelming majority (85 per cent) has been left out of the growth process."

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission is fully aware of the challenges in this regard and has articulated the policy of faster growth and inclusive development in the Eleventh Plan. The basis of the above mentioned statement made by Shri Mitra that overwhelming majority (85 per cent) has been left out of the growth process has not been spelt out.

(d) Empowerment of disadvantage and hitherto marginalized groups of the population is an essential component of inclusive development articulated in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. It encompasses equality of opportunity as well as economic and social mobility for all sections of the society, with affirmative action for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities and women. The country's democratic polity with three tiers of the Panchayati Raj Institutions ensures the involvement of common men in the development process of the country. Most of the poverty alleviation programmes and programmes related to the human development indicators are implemented with the involvement of common men.

Criteria for poverty index

3331. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to redefine the criteria for determining poverty index;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.